

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2990

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016

High Yielding Crop Varieties

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed and released several new high yielding varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops to raise their production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their nutritional quality, crop-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote the cultivation of such varieties of pulses and oilseeds in order to raise their production in the country and reduce import of these food items and if so, the details thereof along with the expected quantum of raise in their production; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the production of pulses and oilseeds and fill the gap in their demand and supply in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Indian Agricultural Research Institute has developed and released 30 and 15 varieties of field and horticultural crops, during 2010 to 2015, respectively. The new varieties are high yielding, besides having various nutritional qualities like good bread, chapati and pasta making qualities in wheat; aroma and good cooking quality in rice; low erucic acid and glucosinolates in Indian mustard, high carotenoid, lycopene and total soluble solid (TSS) in carrot; high TSS and antioxidant in onion and high carotene, micro-nutrients, minerals and antioxidant in bitter gourd.

(c) To promote the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds, National Agricultural Research System has developed location specific 97 and 88 high yielding varieties/hybrids of oilseeds and pulses, respectively, during 2010 to 2015. These varieties had attained a good breeder seed indent for further use by stakeholders (public as well as private sector organizations) in production of foundation, certified and truthfully labelled seeds. To popularize the new varieties, Indian Council of Agricultural Research has produced a total of 2,20,515 q breeder seed of pulses and oil seeds together, which is 51.2% of the total production, during 2010-11 to 2014-15. These seeds were supplied to different seed producing agencies to maintain the effective seed production chain so that quality seeds of improved varieties/hybrids to be made available to the farmers at affordable prices for cultivation and boost the productivity and production in pulses and oilseeds.

(d) In order to boost the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country, the Government has prepared strategic plans like production and supply of good quality seeds, policy support in the form of attractive minimum support price (MSP), procurement, crop insurance, etc. to protect farmers' interest, area expansion under two Central Government schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), promoting improved production technology, enhancing seed replacement rate, provision for life saving irrigation, ensuring availability of critical inputs and machines for agri-operations etc. Further, to boost the overall production of pulses and oilseeds, increasing acreage under these crop commodities in the rice fallow areas, non-traditional areas and through intercropping systems have also been taken up.
